

during a second stay of fifteen months at Ivigtut. The accounts of the breeding and habits of the birds contain much that is interesting, and some remarkable facts are brought out in regard to the migratory movements of certain species; considerable attention too is given to the changes of plumage of several of the species. There are unfortunately a few cases in which Mr. Hagerup seems to have neglected his opportunity of settling the status of some doubtful forms by the reference of large series to some high authority for determination.

The second part, a 'Catalogue of the birds of Greenland,' "comprises all the birds discovered up to date in that part of western Greenland which is settled by the Danes; namely, the country lying south of 73° N. lat." It "is based on the works of Holboll, Reinhardt, Alfred Newton, Ludwig Kumlien, and others; use has also been made of the late Alfred Benzon's collection of bird-skins and eggs," which has supplied much material especially in regard to times of breeding; and Mr. Hagerup's own experience has furnished its quota. The annotations are as a rule quite brief. "Of the 139 species here enumerated one [*Plantus impennis*] is extinct and 53 are merely accidental stragglers, while 24 others are so rare that they might be classed with the accidentals, leaving but 61 species that should be recognized as regular inhabitants of Greenland; and of these several are of quite uncommon occurrence. (M. C.)." Of the smaller land birds a majority are North American species entered as "chance visitors." The Catalogue is greatly benefitted by Mr. Chamberlain's critical notes though he has used his editorial privilege almost too sparingly. Explorers of Greenland, and indeed all who are interested in the fauna of this or other boreal regions, will find this work a most useful hand-book.—C. F. B.

Nicholson's Translation of Sundevall's 'Tentamen.'*—Mr. Nicholson has done good service in placing within the reach of English speaking ornithologists Sundevall's celebrated essay on the classification of birds, originally published in Latin in 1872. For a time, and in certain quarters, Sundevall's system met with much favor, though in many respects arbitrary and artificial; yet at many points it was an advance upon what had been done before. The essay opens with a preface, in which he explains the basis of his work as regards material examined, and makes several pertinent strictures upon the practices of some of his predecessors in respect to imperfect citation of names and references to localities whence specimens are derived. This is followed by the 'Introduction,' giving 'Remarks on the Development of the Ornithological System' (pp. 1-11); 'On the Notion of Affinity as a Principle of Natural Systems' (pp. 12-20); 'Concerning the Object of Systems in Natural History and the Properties involved in them' (pp. 21-25); 'Remarks on the Ornithological

*Sundevall's [Tentamen.] [Methodi Naturalis Avium Disponendarum] [Tentamen.] | Translated into English, | with Notes, | By Francis Nicholson, F. Z. S., | Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, | Corresponding Member of the American Ornithologists' Union. | London: | R. H. Porter, | 18 Princes Street, Cavendish Square, W. | 1889.—8vo. pp. xiii, 316, with frontispiece (portrait of Sundevall).

Classification followed in this Work' (pp. 26-29); 'Remarks on Systematic Nomenclature' (pp. 30-42). Then comes the main body of the work, entitled 'An Exposition of a Method of a Classification of Birds' (pp. 43-252). Three pages then follow devoted to observations on certain genera of doubtful position in the system, and a page of corrections and additions. An 'Index to the Generic Names' mentioned in the work occupies pages 260-286; they number about 2400, of which 900 are considered as superfluous and 300 as synonyms. A list of 'Generic Names added or altered in this Work' follows. All this is followed by an 'Appendix' (pp. 291-305) devoted to 'Ornithographic Terms; or the names of the external parts of Birds,' illustrated with a plate. The translator has added various foot notes, 'giving references to recent publications, in the hope that they may assist the student'; he has also added two appendices, the first giving a summary of Sundevall's system (by Mr. R. B. Sharpe, from the 'Zoölogical Record' for 1872), the second giving the outlines of Sundevall's later arrangement of the Accipitres and the Thrushes, both published in 1874, almost Sundevall's last work, his death occurring the following year.

The work thus contains much that the student of today may consult with profit, aside from the historic interest of the essay as one of the leading attempts at a natural classification of birds.

In the 'Remarks on Classification' are many passages of special interest, particularly his discussion of "the time from which the use of binomial nomenclature in Zoölogy ought to date." He says: "Generally the year 1766 is taken, being the date of publication of the twelfth edition of the 'Systema Naturæ,' which is also the one best known. . . . This is nevertheless an entirely false notion. This nomenclature is brought forward as a principle, and followed out through the whole Animal Kingdom, in the *tenth* edition of the same work, that published in 1758, and it really dates from that time. This observation is the more important, because in this edition many species are a great deal better characterized than in the twelfth, where incorrect synonymy and other mistakes are often introduced, and where some species are entirely omitted. . . ." This in reference to specific names. Generic names in Zoölogy commence "with the first edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ,' published in 1735, this being the first work where genera form an essential part of a system of Zoölogy," etc.

As already said, we believe Mr. Nicholson has done good work in making Sundevall's important essay readily accessible to a large class of students who would be unable to make use of the original edition. The work is admirable in typographical execution.—J. A. A.

Goss's 'History of the Birds of Kansas.'*—As a handbook or manual of the birds of a definite area, Colonel Goss's 'History of the Birds of Kan-

* History of the Birds of Kansas | — | By N. S. Goss. | — | Illustrating 529 Birds. | — | Topeka, Kansas; | Geo. W. Crane & Co., Printers and Binders. | 1891. —Royal 8vo. pp. 692 + 1 l., and 35 photogravure full-page plates.